



**HB-1320/1901**  
**Access to Protection Order Documents and Data**  
**for Judicial Officers Statewide**

**Technology Analysis and**  
**Recommendations for Implementation**

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## Background

A 20-member technical workgroup, from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), King County, and Pierce County, was put together to discuss and provide solutions to the question of how to provide judicial officers statewide with access to protection order documents and data from superior courts, courts of limited jurisdiction, tribal courts, and military courts.

First it is important to understand that the technical landscape for the Washington State judiciary is quite complex and challenging because Washington State is a non-unified courts system. Several trial courts have opted to implement their own case management and document management systems rather than use the state provided case and document management systems. Therefore, sharing protection order documents amongst these separate systems residing on document servers outside of the AOC is very challenging to implement. However, after several meetings with some of the larger non-JIS courts, AOC is proposing the following solution to resolve this issue.

## Access to Protection Order Documents Statewide

### Proposed Solution

The AOC is proposing to implement a solution that would work for all trial courts in Washington State including those with their own separate document management systems. The proposed solution is to implement a secured, centralized resource proxy at the AOC that can be used by the Judicial Access Browser System (JABS) via a hyper-link to request and obtain protection order documents from the courts using their own external document management systems. AOC would be acting as the “broker” to proxy the requests made by judicial officers to see a protection order document from one county to another simply by clicking on a hyper-link in JABS. By clicking on the link, JABS would go to the individual courts DMS to view the document. The protection order documents would continue to be secured and stored locally at the court and not at the AOC.

Initially, this solution/service would provide secure centralized access to protection order documents hosted on individual court systems; but it could also be used for any purpose where externally-hosted content needs to be shared. This solution simplifies the work that is needed to be done by the technical staff in the Non-JIS courts as they will only need to open up their network ports to talk with one trusted end-point which is within the AOC and they would not have to open their network ports to the rest of the courts statewide.

We believe this solution to display Superior Court protection order documents statewide could be implemented for the Superior Courts by January 1, 2023. However, we are still in the planning stages and business requirements will still be needed. Successful development will require effort from each non-JIS court. The CLJ’s must provide access to protection orders filed in their courts by January 1, 2026.

The table below shows the different technology scenarios with the trial courts in Washington State and what the proposed solution is to provide all judicial officers statewide with access to protection order documents.

Impacted Courts	Proposed Solution
1. Superior Courts using the state provided Odyssey CMS & DMS (22 courts)	<p>Judicial Officer's access to protection order documents would be through the JABS application via a hyper-link or possibly through the Odyssey Portal.</p> <p>JABS is already reading data directly from Odyssey. This solution would expand it to include documents as well as case data.</p>
2. Superior Courts using the state provided Odyssey CMS & other local DMS (15 courts)	Judicial Officer's access to protection order documents would be through the JABS application via a hyper-link.
3. Non-JIS Superior Courts (courts using their own local CMS & DMS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King County Clerk's Office (KCCO)</li> <li>Pierce County</li> </ul>	Judicial Officer's access to protection order documents would be through the JABS application via a hyper-link.
4. Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (courts using DISCIS/Legacy CMS)	Judicial Officer's access to protection order documents would be through the JABS application via a hyper-link.
5. Non-JIS Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Courts (courts using or planning to use their own local CMS & DMS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King County District Court (KCDC)</li> <li>Kitsap County District Court</li> <li>Spokane District Court</li> <li>Seattle Municipal Court (SMC)</li> </ul>	Judicial Officer's access to protection order documents would be through the JABS application via a hyper-link.
6. Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (Implementing the new Odyssey CMS)	Judicial Officer's access to protection order documents would be through the JABS application via a hyper-link.
7. Tribal Courts	<p>Tribal Court protection orders would be viewable statewide in JABS if the case was filed in any Superior Court as a Foreign Protection Order (FPO).</p> <p>AOC has future plans to implement eFiling for the Superior Courts that are using the Odyssey CMS and DMS. When this occurs, it will greatly improve the ability for Tribal Courts to file protection orders directly in those 22 superior courts.</p>
8. Military Courts	<p>Unknown – TBD.</p> <p>The process used by Military Courts is not yet understood.</p>

## Access to Protection Order Data Statewide

### Proposed Solution

The AOC is proposing to develop a new application/user interface specifically for tribal court protection orders that would update the AOC Enterprise Data Repository (EDR) database.

Tribal courts that opt to do so could manually enter their protection order data into a new application developed specifically to capture their protection orders. That information would then update the EDR database and that data would be shared with JABS for viewing by the state courts.

### Other Considerations

This solution would require further discussion and collaboration with the tribal courts and the Tribal State Court Consortium (TSCC). Engagement with tribal court stakeholders is critical to understand operations of the different tribal courts, and to assess whether tribal courts would elect to enter their data into a system that will require significant resources to develop. Without full knowledge of tribal courts operations and with no business requirements at this point in time; this proposal and the high-level “order of magnitude” estimate comes with a lot of caveats and unknowns.

Some questions that we currently have are:

- What are the specific Tribal Court business processes in protection order cases?
- How consistent are those processes among the Tribal Courts?
- How similar are those processes to those in state courts?
- If the solution for providing access to the protection order documents is implemented as described on page 2; would there even be a need to enter the case data into a separate system?
- How many Tribal Courts would use the system?

### High-Level Cost Estimate

This proposed solution is estimated to be a large IT system development effort that could be in the range of **\$1-2 million dollars**. A large system development effort is estimated to take greater than one (1) year, is high risk, requires some type of governance structure, will require a project team, will have Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) oversight authority, and would require General Fund funding by the Legislature. Significant business requirements work would be required to establish the needed protection order data elements for the new system.

AOC estimates the following hours:

For Business related work:	5,000 – 7,000 Hours
For Technical related work:	<u>1,000 – 1,500 Hours</u>
<b>Total:</b>	6,000 – 8,500 Hours